## Congress of the United States Washington, VC 20515

January 23, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump President, United States of America The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

Congratulations on your inauguration and officially taking office this week. As you begin your second term as President of the United States, we write to you as a bipartisan group of New York City elected representatives from the federal, state, and city level.

As you know, on January 5, 2025, the State of New York and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) implemented a New York City congestion pricing program tolling vehicles entering Manhattan's Central Business District below 60th Street. This tax is yet another cash grab that is expected to funnel \$1 billion annually to a mismanaged and bloated agency that has treated New York commuters as bottomless ATMs. As you have also previously expressed, this congestion fee will hurt our city's economy and the working families we collectively represent.

Many of our constituents will not benefit from the alleged transportation system improvements as promised, and they do not feel safe riding mass transit after reports of rising crime including stabbings, shootings, and a woman horrifically set fire on the subway, leaving them little choice but to drive to Manhattan. This program will especially hurt our first responders, hospital personnel, and restaurant workers who work odd hours and shifts.

We stand ready to work with your Administration and request that you direct your Department of Transportation to explore reversing the Biden Administration's approval of this first in the nation program, which was done without so much as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as required by National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

It is clear to us that the Environmental Assessment (EA) conducted was not a sufficient mechanism to enforce the requirements of NEPA and ensure an adequate analysis of a program of such vast scale and impact. The MTA has made clear in repeated public statements that their goal was an expedited EA process which would arrive at a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in the fastest possible timeframe. We understand their urgency is driven by severe capital constraint, but we find it impermissible that President Biden's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) would diminish its role in deference to a local transportation authority's fiscal needs with little regard for the negative impact it would have on workers, businesses, and residents. Requiring an EIS will ensure the full impact of this congestion tax can be thoroughly assessed, particularly how redirected traffic and pollution will affect the quality of life in the neighborhoods we represent.

We look forward to working with your Administration for the betterment and quality of life for our constituents.

Sincerely,

Nicole Malliotakis

Member of Congress

Vito J. Fossella

Staten Island Borough President

Bel & Mi hula

Michael E. McMahon

District Attorney, Richmond County

Stephen T. Chan 17th Senate District

Luisba Jelder

Simcha Felder

Jessica Scarcella-Spanton 23rd Senate District

Andrew Lanza 24th Senate District Kalman Yeger

41st Assembly District

22<sup>nd</sup> Senate District

Michael Novakhov 45th Assembly District Alex Brook Mayon

Alec Brook-Krasny 46th Assembly District Simcha Eichenstein 48th Assembly District

Lester Chang 49th Assembly District

Jaime Williams 59th Assembly District Charles Fall 61st Assembly District

Michael Reilly 62nd Assembly District Sam Piropole

Sam Pirozzolo 63rd Assembly District

Michael Tannousis 64th Assembly District

Vickie Paladino City Council District 19 Kristy Marmorato

Kristy Marmorato City Council District 13 Robert Holden City Council District 30

City Council District 32

Susan Zhuang

City Council District 43

Inna Vernikov City Council District 48 Kamillah Hanks City Council District 49

David Carr

City Council District 50

Joseph C. Borelli City Council District 51